

White Water to Blue Water

Newsletter

July/August 2003

Dear White Water to Blue Water Participant:

On behalf of the Steering Committee for the White Water to Blue Water Initiative (hereinafter White Water to Blue Water, or WW2BW), we are pleased to issue the second "White Water to Blue Water Newsletter," a monthly update on the status and activities of the WW2BW Partnership Initiative. This newsletter is being sent to a wide spectrum of interested participants: White Water to Blue Water National Focal Points, partners, members of the Steering Committee, civil society organizations and other stakeholders of the Wider Caribbean Region, and individuals interested in the goals, objectives and activities of the initiative. We encourage you to distribute the monthly newsletters widely to interested parties. Please note that, due to the summer holiday schedule, the next Newsletter will be distributed in September.

International Visitor Team Update and WW2BW Outreach Activities

The Steering Committee has just completed another round of consultation visits in the region ("IVTs"). In the last month, teams visited Honduras, Costa Rica, Belize and Panama, meeting with stakeholders from the government, civil society and private sectors. Presentations were also made to larger, multilateral audiences at international meetings such as the recent ministerial meeting of the Comision Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo (CCAD), and the U.S. Department of Defense Environmental Security Conference, both of which were held in Belize. Some of the recommendations coming from these visits include:

- to invite El Salvador to participate in the White Water to Blue Water initiative because of its experience in watershed management issues on the Pacific Ocean and importance within the greater Central American context
- to invite CCAD to serve as a co-chair of the March 21-26, 2004 Miami WW2BW conference to provide regional balance to the conference leadership. Should CCAD agree to this proposal, it would join the U.S. Government, CARICOM and UNEP-CEP on the dais as conference co-chairs.

To date, IVTs have been conducted in Belize, Barbados, Saint Lucia, Jamaica, Grenada, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Nicaragua, Guyana, Aruba, the Netherlands Antilles (Curacao and Bonaire), Puerto Rico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras, and Panama. In the coming two months, we expect to carry out IVT missions to Trinidad and Tobago (mid-August, during the Barbados +10 SIDS preparatory meeting), Mexico (late August), the Bahamas (late September), and St. Kitts and Nevis (9-12 September, during the 5th Annual Caribbean Conference on Sustainable Tourism Development). The White Water to Blue Water Steering Committee is committed to completing IVT consultations visits throughout the Wider Caribbean by October-November 2003.

White Water to Blue Water

Newsletter

July/August 2003

Website Update

One of three WW2BW websites is up and running. This site provides general information about the White Water to Blue Water initiative as well as access to WW2BW background documents (such as the current list of Steering Committee members, and PowerPoint presentations on the initiative in English, Spanish and French). All WW2BW newsletters can be found there as well. You can access the website at: <http://www.international.noaa.gov/ww2bw>, and we encourage you to visit the site often.

We expect to launch the public Miami conference website by early October. This website will include registration information, hotel information, and general information for use by all stakeholders, the public and the media. In the meantime, conference updates, including the website's Internet address, will be provided via this monthly newsletter.

The third website, which will function as a clearinghouse for Wider Caribbean Region partnerships, is also under construction. It is being designed and will be maintained by the UNEP-CEP Secretariat in Kingston, Jamaica. All three websites will provide hot links to each other.

Conference Update

Save these dates!!!

The White Water to Blue Water regional stakeholders conference will be held March 21-27, 2004, at the Hyatt Regency Miami hotel. Mark your calendars, as the registration web page will be available in a few months. This conference, which will focus on networking and the creation of public-private partnerships, is designed to bring together national Country Team delegations of 5-6 persons from diverse ministries such as Fisheries, Education, Finance, Health, Agriculture, Planning and Tourism to address national and regional needs in watershed and marine ecosystem management. Country Team delegations should include, where appropriate, representatives from civil society and the private sector. The Steering Committee has begun communicating with National Focal Points from each of the countries of the region. National Focal Points are identified through the IVT consultation process; for those countries that have yet to be visited, in the interim we are using the list of UNEP-CEP National Focal Points. As the conference draws near, we will coordinate with the National Focal Points to handle logistical arrangements and to ensure that Country Team delegations are prepared for the conference discussions.

White Water to Blue Water

Newsletter

July/August 2003

Partnerships Update

The partnership subcommittee, in conjunction with thematic sub-committees (i.e., the sub-committees on Integrated Watershed Management, Integrated Marine Ecosystem Management, Sustainable Tourism, and Environmentally Sound Marine Transportation), is currently developing a list of potential partnerships for consideration by the National Focal Points. This list provides examples of potential partnerships Country Teams can use as a departure point for the development of their own list of priority projects they would like to see implemented and for which they would be willing to form partnerships with like-minded stakeholders in the region. Look for more information on WW2BW Partnerships in next month's Newsletter.

Available Documents

We have basic documents on the WW2BW initiative available, all of which are now available on the NOAA website discussed above. We are also happy to provide these documents by email; please contact us if you would like copies of the following:

- A 2-page glossy (available in English, Spanish, or French)
- Steering Committee Membership List
- Conference Subcommittee Leadership List
- The latest Conference draft Agenda
- Subcommittee Thematic Description

In the meantime, the Steering Committee is committed to the broadest possible participation in the White Water to Blue Water process, and your questions, comments and expressions of interest in participation are encouraged and desired. To communicate with the Steering Committee, you are also most welcome to contact the following Steering Committee members:

Richard Wilbur
Advisor, Office of Oceans Affairs
U.S. Department of State
202-647-3879; fax: 202-647-9099
Email: WilburRM2@state.gov

Thomas Laughlin
Director, Office of International Affairs
U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
202-482-6196; fax: 202-482-4307
Email: Tom.Laughlin@noaa.gov